



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

We Protect Hoosiers and Our Environment.

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Severe Weather Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

How can I apply for federal assistance? Individuals, farmers, public and government officials and non-profit agencies should visit the [Indiana Storm Damage Web site](#) for information and forms.

Is there someone in my community that can answer my questions about assistance? For the locations of disaster assistance centers, visit the [Indiana Storm Damage Web site](#).

How can I find road closures? Visit the [Indiana Storm Damage Web site](#) for the latest update.

How can I make sure my drinking water is safe? Local Emergency Management Agencies (EMAs) are coordinating with other federal, state and local agencies to provide requested assistance to impacted areas. Residents should contact their local Emergency Management Agency <http://www.in.gov/gov/3725.htm> for information. (*Drinking water operators should contact Liz Melvin with IDEM's Drinking Water Branch at (317) 308-3366 or lmelvin at idem.IN.gov to request technical assistance or report problems.*)

What if I have an oil spill or chemical release? Report spills and releases to the IDEM 24-hour toll-free spill line at (888) 233-7745. IDEM staff members will field the call and work to ensure all spills are contained, stabilized and properly addressed.

How do I manage flood-related debris from my residence? Visit [IDEM's Storm Damage Update](#) for a the fact sheet "Flood 2008 Advice for Residential Cleanup."

Where should I take debris and waste when I cleanup from the flood? Visit [IDEM's Storm Damage Update](#) web page for updated information about disaster debris management in local communities.

Is there assistance available for communities to manage emergency and flood-related debris? For information about available assistance, local officials should contact Charles Grady, with IDEM's Office of Land Quality, at (317) 308-3115 or e-mail cgrady@idem.IN.gov. Local governments must complete the Emergency Debris Management Checklist to be eligible for federal funding for debris staging sites. Visit [IDEM's Storm Damage Update](#) Web page for more information.

What should I do about stray petroleum storage tanks or home heating oil tanks that washed onto my private property during the flood? Stray drums and waste containers, cylinders and pressure vessels washed up onto residential property should be assessed for any special handling that might be required. Report stray barrels, waste containers, cylinders and pressure vessels to authorities to the IDEM 24-hour toll-free spill line at (888) 233-7745.

What is household hazardous waste and what should I do with it? Household hazardous waste, such as common household products with hazardous properties used in cleaning, home improvement projects, automobile maintenance, lawn and garden care, and a variety of other tasks. Mercury-containing products, gasoline, used motor oil, antifreeze, oil filters, batteries, electronics, television monitors, paints stains and varnishes, and pesticides are accepted at household hazardous waste collection facilities. Not all household hazardous waste needs to be discarded. Most cleaners and products we use around the home come in sturdy plastic containers that can be tightly sealed. Products in properly closed containers that remain intact should not be thrown away. Only throw away damaged or ruined products. Visit [IDEM's Storm Damage Update](#) for the fact sheet "Flood 2008 Advice for Residential Cleanup."

What should I do with medications? Medications that must be discarded also require special attention. Tablets or capsules should be dissolved in the original container with a small amount of water. For liquid medications, add sawdust, kitty litter or flour, if available, to the original container. Labels from prescription bottles should be removed or patient information should be completely marked out. Lids should be placed tightly on the containers and put in a heavy-duty sealed bag as tight lids and sealed bags will keep medications from leaking. The sealed bag may be placed in the trash so that it is not visible to prevent unintended use or contact.

I'm a livestock producer; what do I do if my lagoon is overflowing or my barns are flooding? Report spills and releases to the IDEM 24-hour toll free spill line at (888) 233-7745. IDEM staff will work to ensure all reported spills are contained and stabilized. For confidential technical assistance, livestock operations should also contact Ryan Westerfeld at IDEM at (317) 232-8587 or (800) 451-6027.

What does my wastewater treatment plant do in an emergency? Flood waters, in general, are considered to be contaminated with sewage, animal waste and possible pathogens. Flood waters and power outages may have disrupted operations at many wastewater treatment plants in impacted areas. As flood waters recede and power returns, these plants will resume operations. The public may contact their wastewater facilities for the status of operations. *(IDEM will be helping plants that need special assistance. Wastewater operators may contact IDEM at (317) 234-2579 or email Don Daily at ddaily@idem.IN.gov.)*

Is emergency authorization provided for the repair and replacement of culverts, bridges, dams and roads? Projects affecting public waterways could require approval from the United States Army Corps of Engineers and IDEM. For information about emergency authorizations, visit [IDEM's Storm Damage Update](#) web page. To request assistance, contact James Robb with IDEM's Office of Water Quality at (317) 233-8802 or jrobb@idem.IN.gov.